LINCOLN LEGS

DRAWER 29a

TOYS/GAMES

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Curios and Relics

Toys & Games

Lincoln Logs

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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May 18, 98 Mon.

William F. Graves Sr.
[redacted]
Mishawaka, IN [redacted]
(1 [redacted])

Lincoln Museum

To Whom It May Concern:

I just came across this article from The South Bend Tribune dated May 16, 1998 (C-4 Section) concerning Lincoln Logs and its history.

I am a lecturer on Lincoln and in question and answer portions of the program I've had questions asked about Lincoln Logs (most of us played with them as children) and their background.

I just thought this bit of trivia information would be "grist for your mill" and placed in one of your files for future reference by Lincoln scholars.

Respectfully,
William F. Graves Sr.

P.S.

I thought the tie-in with the Frank L. Wright family will be of interest to architects etc.

5-16-98 S.B. Trib. C-4

Question: My mother just dug out my 1950s Lincoln Logs set. They are still in good shape. When were Lincoln Logs first made? Are they still being made?

Answer: Lincoln Logs, which were first produced in 1920, were the brainchild of John Lloyd Wright, son of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

John Wright's idea was inspired by a 1916 visit to Japan, where he and his father watched workmen move huge logs to build a hotel that his father designed.

The toy's name was inspired by Abraham Lincoln's log-cabin childhood.

Lincoln Logs were an immediate commercial success. Playskool purchased the company in 1943, and Lincoln Logs are still being made.

WHO CREATED LINCOLN LOGS?

Lincoln Logs were created by John Lloyd Wright (1892-1972) after he visited Tokyo, Japan in 1917 to see the construction site of the Imperial Hotel, which was designed by his father, Frank Lloyd Wright. In the construction of the hotel, Frank used a new technique called "floating cantilever construction," where projecting beams were joined or locked into beams extending from opposite piers. John, inspired by this construction technique, developed simple toy building sets known as Lincoln Logs. The toy consists of miniature hardwood logs notched on the sides to fit into each other.

SOURCE:
Chicago Tribune Magazine. 12 December 1982, p16.
Castronova, Frank V., ed. *Almanac of Famous People*. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Inc., 1998.
Cho, Erin. "Lincoln Logs: Toying with the Frontier Myth," *History Today* 43 (1993): 31-34.

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